

By painting a few portraits in New Orleans, Kane was enabled to accumulate sufficient means to carry him to Mobile, where he became a favourite, and met with considerable success. At the expiration of two years, he had by prudence and unflagging industry, realized funds sufficient to carry him to Italy, a consummation which had long been the cherished dream of his existence.

Accordingly in 1840, he sailed for the old world, and landing safely in Marseilles, proceeded at once to Genoa, where for the first time, he beheld one of the great European galleries of art.

After remaining here about a fortnight, he shaped his pilgrimage to the "eternal city." Procuring an apartment at a moderate rate, he commenced living in a style of the most rigid economy, so that he might be enabled to make his sojourn the more protracted.

Without squandering a single day in the gratification of mere curiosity, Kane commenced his studies in some of the leading academies which Rome presented.

After fourteen months of unremitting labour, during which period he copied some of the principal pictures of the great masters, our artist found that the exertion was too great for his strength to sustain, and that a modicum of relaxation was absolutely necessary. Accordingly he set out on a pedestrian tour to Naples, his entire kit consisting of a small knapsack mainly occupied by his sketching materials.

Having reached Naples much recruited in health and spirits, he made it his headquarters for three months, during which period he visited all the most famous collections of works of art in the city, besides the remains of Pompeii, Herculaneum, &c. At the expiry of the above mentioned period, the subject of our sketch returned to Rome, as he had left it, on foot, but by a different route, shaping his course by the Pontine marshes.

Working assiduously for another year in the city of Romulus, Kane shifted his quarters to Florence, where he attended the academies, and copied several pictures in the Pitti and other Palaces, principally for the purpose of improving himself in colouring.

Not to dwell upon our artist's continental wanderings, we may briefly state that he successively visited Venice, Bologna, the Lake of Como, and the great St. Bernard, which he ascended. Reaching Paris, he remained there four months, studying in the Louvre, and then proceeded to London, where he spent the winter, his health again requiring repose.

Having resolved to return to this continent, Kane repaired to Liverpool, but found when he got there, that he lacked funds sufficient to pay his passage over the Atlantic. He was fortunate enough, however, to fall in with the master of a United States vessel, who consented to give him a berth on credit. Arriving safely at Mobile, in the spring of 1845, after, however, nearly suffering shipwreck, he was enabled to procure a loan from an old acquaintance, and discharged his debt to the honest skipper.

Remaining in Mobile only long enough to accumulate sufficient funds to repay his friend, and furnish the means of locomotion, he returned to Toronto after an absence of nearly nine years.

Our artist had now to decide as to what particular course should be adopted, in order to turn his acquirements to some practical account. After mature deliberation, he resolved to devote himself to the delineation of the habits, customs, and physical peculiarities of the aborigines of his native land, and of the wild scenery of the far North.

Having formed the patriotic determination, he lost no time in carrying it into effect. Accordingly he left Toronto, on the 17th of June, 1845, for Penetanguishine, and from thence proceeded to Saugeen, to witness a council of Indians. At this place he commenced that series of Indian sketches, which we doubt not are destined to connect his name imperishably with the artistic annals of Canada.

At Saugeen Kane met with a young French Canadian who was travelling with some "red men," and became his fellow pilgrim. Repairing to Owen Sound they purchased a canoe, and a few necessaries, such as ammunition, &c., knowing that they would have mainly to depend upon hunting for subsistence.